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**Suggested Topics for Future Discussion or Consideration by the
National Security Council**

Reference: Memorandum from Mr. Gordon Gray, dated 3 December 1959

1. The Geography Division has considered the problem of identifying major national security problems that might be appropriate for discussion by the National Security Council during the course of the next year, and submits herewith a number of suggested topics.

2. We recognize that these are not exclusively, or even predominantly, within the realm of geographic intelligence, but we feel that we, as geographic intelligence officers, are capable of contributing to the consideration of these problems.

3. Suggested topics are:

✓ a. Expansion of Communist Activities and Influence in Latin America and Africa.

b. Soviet Long-Term Capabilities (Material Resources and Technology) for Economic Penetration into the Non-Communist World.

✓ c. International Controls Over the Operation of Space Vehicles Orbiting the Earth.

✓ d. International Agreements on Disposal of Nuclear Waste.

✓ e. International Agreement on Law of the Sea. (Conference to be held at Geneva, March 17-April 14, 1960).

✓ f. Long-Term Implications of World-Wide Population Growth, with Special Attention to China and India.

g. Soviet Capabilities for Control of Weather.

h. Potential Utilization of the Resources of the Sea.

i. Strains on Regional Unity in the SEATO Area.


j. Consideration of Establishment of an "Alert Force "

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**Subject: Suggested Topics for Future Discussion or Consideration
by the National Security Council**

**Mechanism to Permit Immediate U.S. Action to Counter
Communist Non-Military Penetration before the Normal
Processes of Government Assume Control.**

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(Taken to DAD/RR by [REDACTED])

Long-Range Implications and Consequences of Soviet Expanding Activities in Antarctica

✓ Soviet expansion includes: (1) introduction of the nuclear icebreaker; (2) possibly "scientific" submarines; (3) expansion of whaling to four fleets (50-60 ships); (4) non-stop air communications; and (5) there is even a possibility that the Soviets might attempt to use the Antarctic for impacting an ICBM instrumented for "scientific" observations.

Assessment of Comprehensive Soviet Research in the Earth Sciences as a Factor Contributing to Possible Soviet Superiority in Warfare Capabilities

✓ The Soviets from their earliest days have been investing heavily in earth science research designed to establish mastery over nature through constant improvements in all types of forecasting of favorable and unfavorable natural phenomena (weather forecasting, mineral exploration, fishing) and the development of techniques to deter or modify other phenomena (e.g., climate control, alteration of genetic characteristics of flora and fauna). Early goals to meet domestic requirements have now expanded into a world-wide scope for the unified study of the earth as a whole. Individual U.S. geophysicists have been appalled by the greater magnitude and comprehensiveness of Soviet analyses of all kinds of observational data than is done anywhere in the world. One significant assumption of all this is that, given more or less equal levels of weapons design, the balance of military superiority may be swung by superior knowledge of the physical environment for the whole of the earth.

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